Scientific technology in agriculture

†2023. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain targets for application of scientific technology in the field of agricultural production in the country have been fixed to be achieved within the prescribed time limit;

(b) if so, the detailed information in this regard;

(c) whether the above mentioned scientific technology is being developed keeping in view the interests of more than 80 per cent of small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Removal of cotton from Essential Commodities Act

2024. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove cotton from Essential Commodities Act, when cotton for clothing had been treated as essential as food for the past several thousands of years;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision;

(c) whether Bt. Cotton seed manufacturers are taking shelter under the decision of the Government to remove cotton from the Act, in violation of several mandatory conditions for marketing Bt. Cotton seeds; and

(d) if not, the reasons for non-supply of standard quality Bt. Cotton seeds at affordable price to the cotton growers in India, instead of supplying non-productive cotton plants of Bt. Cotton seeds, at abnormal price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been amended and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006 has come into force on 12th February, 2007.

Cotton and woollen textiles, along with some other commodities, have been deleted from the list of essential commodities in the wake of introduction of Textile Development Bill, 2005 in Parliament, which seeks to liberalize textile industry.

(c) and (d) Bt. cotton seeds are produced and marketed by private sector seed companies and prices have been fixed by them in consultation with State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.